WE CLAIM:

1. A network distributed tracking wire transfer protocol comprising:

a variable length identification string, the identification string for specifying the identity of an entity in a distributed data collection; and

a variable length location string, the location string for specifying the network location of data associated with an entity in a distributed data collection;

wherein a relationship between the identification string and the location string can be spontaneously and dynamically created and modified.

2. The network distributed tracking wire transfer protocol defined in claim 1, wherein the protocol is application independent.

3. The network distributed tracking wire transfer protocol defined in claim 1, wherein the protocol is organizationally independent.

4. The network distributed tracking wire transfer protocol defined in claim 1, wherein the protocol is geographically independent.

5. A system having a network distributed tracking wire transfer protocol for storing and identifying data with a distributed data collection, comprising:

a data repository, the data repository for storing data in a distributed data collection;

a client entity, the client entity for manipulating data in the distributed data collection; and

a first server entity, the first server entity operative to locate data in the distributed data collection;

wherein the client entity transmits an identifier string to the first server entity along with a client request and the first server entity provides at least one location string to the client entity in response thereto.

6. The system defined in claim 5, further comprising a second server entity coupled to the first server entity.

7. The system defined in claim 5, wherein the first server entity maps the identifier string received from the client entity to the at least one location string.

8. The system defined in claim 7, wherein the mapping is performed using a hash operation.

9. The system defined in claim 6, wherein the first server entity transmits the client request to the second server entity if the first server entity cannot provide the at least one location string to the client entity.

10. The system defined in claim 9, wherein the second server entity maps the identifier string received from the first server entity to the at least one location string.

11. The system defined in claim 10, wherein the second server entity transmits the at least one location string to the first server entity for transmission to the client entity.

12. A method for storing and retrieving tracking information over a network using a wire transfer protocol, comprising the steps of:

providing a location string and an identification string, the location string for specifying the location of data associated with an entity in a distributed data collection and the identification string for specifying the identification of an entity in the distributed data collection;

storing information at a data repository entity by associating an identification string with each particular stored unit of information and by mapping the identification string to at least one location string associated with the data repository entity, the identification string and the at least one location

string for a particular unit of information being stored at a first server entity coupled to the data repository entity;

transmitting a request from a client entity to the first server entity to retrieve at least one location string associated with a particular stored unit of information, the request including the identification string associated with the particular stored unit of information; and

receiving the request at the first server entity and responding to the client entity by providing at least one location string associated with the particular stored unit of information to the client entity.

13. The method for storing and retrieving tracking information defined in claim 12, further comprising the step of transmitting the request to a second server entity prior to responding to the client entity, the second server entity coupled to the first server entity and having stored therewith the mapping of the identification string and the at least one location string for the particular unit of information.

14. The method for storing and retrieving tracking information defined in claim 13, wherein the second server entity responds to the client entity by providing the location string associated with the particular stored unit of information to the second client entity.

15. The method for storing and retrieving tracking information defined in claim 12, wherein the lengths of the identification string and the at least one location string are variable.

16. The method for storing and retrieving tracking information defined in claim 12, further comprising the step of spontaneously and dynamically manipulating the mapping of an identification string to a location string.